

# BARRE GAZETTE

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## Quabbin to participate in pool COVID testing

By Ellenor Downer  
Staff Writer

BARRE – Quabbin Regional School District Superintendent Sheila Muir said the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education offered a free six-week pool COVID testing to schools in the Commonwealth.

The QRSD Committee voted to participate in the free, six-week program as of March 1.

She said the purpose of this type of testing was to identify asymptomatic COVID cases. Permission was needed from parents of students and adults in the pool. The pool system would test a cohort of up to ten individuals, students and a staff member. Students in grade 2 and up would self-administer the gentle nasal swab test and staff would perform the test on younger students. The superintendent said the testing company, Project Beacon, would get results within 24 hours.

DESE would provide test kits, the testing and courier service free for the first six weeks.

She said if all the individuals came back negative in the pool, then it the assumption would be no one in the pool had COVID. If a pool had one or more positive tests, then everyone in the pool would take a rapid test.

Muir said schools, which were participating in the program, found participation increased over time and she said it should be the case for the Quabbin district. Muir said the program was extra work for the school nurses and medical waiting room staff. She said the tests during the free period would provide the district with more information and the school committee then would make a decision to continue with the program. DESE did not give a definitive price at this time, but it estimated cost to be about \$30 per pool and it would likely charge for transporting test samples to the lab.

School committee vice-chair Mark Brophy said, "It was a wise move to make."

### Sports

Quabbin was in a pod with six other schools for the fall 2 sports season, which consists of football and indoor track. Football would start Feb. 22 and indoor track, March 15. The six schools included Ayer/Shirley, Gardner, Lunenburg, Murdock, Narragansett and Quabbin. Quabbin's home turf for football will be Gardner and away turf, Lunenburg as they both had artificial turf. Officials were still trying to decide the spectator limit on outdoor football.

### NJROTC 2022 trip

The QRSD Committee approved a trip request by Captain Daniel Brennock for the Quabbin NJROTC cadets to Iceland for April 2022 with the usual provisos. Cost of the trip would be \$4,200 and accommodations would include three students to a room. Student advisory

Student advisory members Nathan Legare and Sarah McMenemy gave the school committee an update on the Drama

See QRSD, page 5



Be my  
(canine)  
Valentine

Sofie teaches Hardwick Playgroup children how to do the "Hokey Pokey" via Zoom.

Turley Publications  
Photo by Paula Ouimette

By Paula Ouimette  
Staff Writer

HARDWICK — The Hardwick Playgroup, an early literacy program for children ages 0-5 and part of MOC Coordinated Family and Community Engagement, has been offering virtual playgroups on Zoom since Sept. 2020. Playgroups are held every Friday at 10 a.m. All children, regardless of where they live, are welcome to join the group. Each week playgroup coordinator Miss Paula reads a different story, sings songs and leads families through a craft or activity.

This past Friday, Feb. 12, Hardwick Playgroup (which streams live from the Ware River News office, 80 Main St., Ware) had special Valentine's



Steve Olivo assists Sofie with performing a magic trick.

Day guests, Sofie Vanilla Cookie and her human counterpart, Steve Olivo. Sofie and Olivo are well-known in the area, visiting area schools, nursing homes, hospitals, farmers markets, and supporting local events and businesses.

With COVID-19 protocols in place, Sofie's ability to interact with the community has been

impacted, and joining the virtual playgroup was just what she needed to beat the winter blues.

A visit from Sofie has always been a highlight of Hardwick Playgroup, as children love to sit next to her and read her stories or show her their craft that they have

See SOPHIE, page 6

## BOH offers COVID clinics this weekend

By Ellenor Downer  
Staff Writer

HUBBARDSTON – The main topic at the Feb. 9 Hubbardston Board of Health meeting was COVID-19 vaccine clinics for people ages 75 and up.

The clinics will be held at the Hubbardston Center School, 8 Elm St., Saturday, Feb. 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 21 from 1-3 p.m. To register for an appointment slot, eligible residents should contact the Hubbardston Board of Health at 978-928-1400, extension 209 or at [Inspect@hubbardston.us](mailto:Inspect@hubbardston.us).

Mallory Seamon, board of health administrator, said the town clerk provided a list of all Hubbardston residents ages 75 and older. She said those seniors, who had email would receive an email about the clinic tomorrow, as well as receive a Reverse Code Red 911 call informing them of the clinic and how to register. In addition, volunteers from the Hubbardston Senior Center were helping the board of health reach out to eligible seniors.

Dr. Michael Stauder, town physician, joined the meeting for this part of the discussion. He said he would be at both clinics. He said

the Hubbardston Center School had a defibrillator and the board of health should ask the ambulance service for a few epipens. He said Heywood Hospital would dispose of the sharps from the clinic.

BOH chair Catherine Hansgate said all the supplies, which were ordered, arrived. BOH member Vincent Ritchie said the ordered refrigeration/freezer should arrive tomorrow.

When asked if recently vaccinated individuals could spread the virus, Stauder said it was unlikely. He said he wanted to associate with a vaccinated person than a non-vaccinated one.

Elementary school Principal Jill Peterson will open the school Friday, Feb. 19 so the volunteers can set up for the clinic

The board of health decided to hold another meeting Tuesday, Feb. 16 to finalize plans. Ritchie said they should post the set up date Feb. 19 and the clinic dates of Feb. 20 and 21 as inadvertently there would be a quorum of the board of health.

Member Judie O'Donnell said other towns Sterling, Rutland and Oakham/New Braintree already

See HUBBARDSTON, page 5

## Open Space and Recreation Plan forum held

### Residents agree on plan goals

By Paula Ouimette  
Staff Writer

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The North Brookfield Master Plan Committee hosted a public forum on Thursday, Feb. 4, via Zoom, with dozens of residents in attendance. Sheila Orsi opened the forum and introduced herself and the other members of the committee. The Master Plan Committee is comprised of Orsi, Ann Hicks, John Turner, Susan Lyons, Brandon Avery and Robert Locatelli. Committee members Orsi and Hicks hosted the forum.

Hicks thanked everyone for attending the online forum and explained the town's first Open Space and Recreation Plan was from 2007, and had expired. They are updating it now, along with the rest of the Master Plan. The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs oversees the plan and dictates what needs to be

included. One of the requirements is a survey of residents, which was completed late last October. Hicks said one of the benefits of having an up-to-date Open Space and Recreation Plan, as well as a Master Plan, is it gives the town the ability to apply for grants. Two major grants they can apply for are the park and land grants.

### Survey results

There were four questions on the survey that were sent to residents of North Brookfield. They received 746 responses to the survey. The first question was "What do you like about living in North Brookfield?" The majority, 77%, of the responses said "rural/country living," followed by "farm and agriculture access" at 23%.

The second question was "What are favorite activities you would like to see encouraged in North Brookfield?" Top responses included walking, 51%, hiking, 41%, bicycling, 33%, team sports, 29%, bird watching, 29%, fishing, 24%,

See NORTH BROOKFIELD, page 8

## Oakham gets electronic sign



Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer

The town of Oakham now has a new sign on the front lawn of Oakham Town Hall. It displays date, time and temperature. The sign replaces a non-electronic covered sign, which used plastic letters and numbers in slots.

## First Congregational Church gets new minister

Rev. Dr. Ann Michele Rogers Brigham started Jan. 1

By Eileen Kennedy  
Staff writer

WEST BROOKFIELD – Rev. Dr. Ann Michele Rogers Brigham knew by the time she was 15 or 16 that she wanted to be a minister, and after a long career in the ministry, she has become the newest pastor at First Congregational Church of West Brookfield. She started her duties on Jan. 1.

"They ended up calling me," Brigham said about her newest

congregation. She had retired from full-time ministering, and was living in the house in Mississippi she and her husband had bought for retirement. Her husband had died, and she found she was missing full-time ministry, leading her to keep an eye on full-time minister positions that opened up.

When she saw the notice for the West Brookfield church, she decided to reach out to them. "The timing was right, and we found we were a good match," she said. She came up from Mississippi and preached to them in the parking lot of the church.

The ministry has been a calling she has heard from her teenage years on. Growing up in a small

town in southern Mississippi, and segregation was a part of life there.

"Segregation was very much with us in those years," she said. Seeing white adults say one thing in church and act differently outside of church, restricting the lives of Blacks, seemed hypocritical.

She grew up on a dairy farm in a small town, and upon going to college, decided to make the ministry her life's work. She said her parents supported her choice throughout her life, although they questioned whether it would be practical for her to pursue it. But they came to her graduations and were happy for her, she said.

See MINISTER, page 6

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# News of the Towns



### Round Town

*Ellenor Downer*  
413-967-3505

## Congregational church to hold drive-thru dinner

The Barre Congregational Church, 30 Park St., will host a drive-thru chicken parmigina dinner on Saturday, Feb. 27 with pick-up time from 5-6 p.m. The meal also includes antipasto salad and dessert. Adults are \$12 and children under 12 are \$5. For reservations, people may call Lisa Holloway at 978-355-0140.

### Winter reading program

The Woods Memorial Library will host a winter reading program. People may register at barrelibrary.beanstack.org. They have challenges for children, teens and adults, with prizes for all ages. Children will track how many minutes are spent reading, while adults and teens track by the number of books read. There are multiple challenges for chances to win extra tickets toward the prize drawings, and new challenges will be added each week. Children win a free book for signing up that can be picked up in the lobby during outdoor hours. Winter Reading runs from now until Saturday, April 3 - prizes will be drawn at noon on April 3.

### Quabbin Savings Card

The Barre Library Association is selling the Quabbin Savings card in their lobby during outdoor service hours. Cards are \$10 each and all proceeds benefit the library. The cards offer various discounts at 15 local businesses and are good throughout the year. People will get a ticket when they purchase a Quabbin Savings Card for a chance to win a basket featuring items from each of the participating businesses. People may pay with cash or make checks payable to Barre Library Association.



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## Randy Jordan received Lions Humanitarian Award

RUTLAND – Randy Jordan was recently named as the recipient of the Massachusetts Lions District 33 A Humanitarian Award. He was recognized, at a ceremony held at Jordan's Farm Saturday, Feb. 6, for his many contributions to his town, county and state. Jordan was nominated for this honor by the Rutland Lions Club.

Turley Publications Courtesy Photo  
**Shown from left are Lions District 33A Governor Denise Andrews, Lion Joni Laplante, District Humanitarian Award chair and Randy Jordan of Rutland, Humanitarian Award recipient.**



## Woods Memorial Library news

BARRE — Sign up for the Woods Memorial Library Winter Reading program at barrelibrary.beanstack.org. They have challenges for kids, teens and adults, with prizes for all ages. Kids will track how many minutes are spent reading, while adults & teens track by the number of books read. There are multiple challenges for chances to win extra tickets toward the prize drawings, and new challenges will be added each week! Kids win a free book for signing up that can be picked up in our lobby during our outdoor hours. Check out their newly updated website, their Facebook page, or email jpalmer@barrelibrary.org for more information. Winter

Reading runs from now until Saturday, April 3 - prizes will be drawn at noon on April 3.

In conjunction with their new Winter Reading program, they are hosting their next (virtual) book club on Wednesday, March 31 at 6:30 p.m. Please email Jenna at jgarvey@barrelibrary.org for the Zoom meeting link and password. The book being discussed is "The Book of Lost Names" by Kristin Harmel.

To celebrate winter reading, copies of this book will be provided for free to participants. If people plan to attend this Book Club, they may call the library at 978-355-2533 or email barrelibrary@gmail.com to request your free copy before Feb. 25.

If people would still like to participate after this date, contact the library to check availability of the free books. All are welcome to attend book club.

They are also selling the Quabbin Savings card in their lobby during outdoor service hours. Cards are \$10 each and all proceeds benefit the library. The cards offer various discounts at 15 local businesses and are good throughout the year. Get a ticket when you purchase a Quabbin Savings Card for a chance to win a basket featuring items from each of the participating businesses. Cash and check only. Please make checks payable to Barre Library Association. Sponsored by the Barre Library Association.

## Hubbardston

*Ellenor Downer*  
edowner@turley.com



## BOH to hold COVID 19 Vaccine clinic for 75 and up

The Hubbardston Board of Health will be hosting two vaccination clinics for residents ages 75 and older. The clinics will be held at the Hubbardston Elementary School, 8 Elm St., Saturday, Feb. 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 21 from 1-3 p.m. To register for an appointment slot, eligible residents should contact the Hubbardston Board of Health at 978-928-1400, extension 209 or at [Inspect@hubbardston.us](mailto:Inspect@hubbardston.us).

### Country Hen scholarship

The 2021 Country Hen Scholarship forms will be due May. 1. Hubbardston students are eligible to apply for the scholarship funded by Country Hen.

### Senior center

The Hubbardston Senior Center will be closed until April. At that point, the Council on Aging will review how things are going with the virus and plan accordingly. A council member will be checking the phone lines two or three times a week. The director, Claudia Provencal will be checking emails and Facebook every day. The drive through food and eggs will still be in place on Thursday mornings. Masks will be in place properly and distancing will be followed.

## Friends of Hubbardston Senior Center receive grant

HUBBARDSTON — Friends of the Hubbardston Senior Center received good news; the group received another grant from the Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts.

This is the fourth grant the friends group received from them during this pandemic. The grants have been a light in the darkness for the senior center to reach out and help seniors in the community. Without a way to raise money as the friends group has done in previous years, grants have been a lifeline.

With previous grants they have been able to purchase sanitation stations, air purification system, paper towels, toilet paper, gloves, masks, shields and many other items needed to help keep the senior center open for volunteers to be safe while they handed out meals on wheels, eggs, information and grab and go bags for Hubbardston seniors. The friends group bought items for the grab and go bags that included personal protection gear, sanitation items, food, essential needs like toilet paper, paper towels and many other items that were passed out to the seniors at the Hubbardston Senior Center.

With this new grant the group will be able to buy food to pass out to the seniors of the community. The friends group tries to buy the food from local farmers in the area as it can help the seniors helping and also helping small town farmers.

The friends group stays in contact with the director of the Hubbardston Senior Center on how to go about doing this. She has suggested that maybe the senior center could offer grab and go meals such as soups, stews, pot pies and small meals. More information on the grab and go meals will be available when the Council on Aging makes a decision, until then please stay safe.

Darlene Seaborne, president of the Friends of the Hubbardston Senior Center said, "I want to mention that none of this would be possible without grants from The Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts."

## Corrections policy

The Barre Gazette will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2. To request a correction, send information to Editor Ellenor Downer at [barrenews@turley.com](mailto:barrenews@turley.com) or call 978-355-4000. Corrections may also be requested in writing at Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

## Barre Dining Center

BARRE — Elder Services of Worcester Area Nutrition Program welcomes guests to dine at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road. The following meals will be served for the week of Feb. 22.

Meal sites are closed and there are only Meals on Wheels deliveries.

Volunteers are needed at the Barre dining site. Volunteers are needed for Meals on Wheels (mileage reimbursement) and in the kitchen. People should contact 978-355-5027.

MON. – Meatballs with onion gravy, bowtie pasta, Brussels sprouts, vanilla pudding, diet = sugar free pudding, French bread

TUES. – Chicken fajitas, Spanish rice, black beans and corn, sour cream, pita bread, pineapple

WED. – Pork with gravy, cornbread stuffing, Roman blend vegetables, fresh fruit, peasant white bread

THURS. – Beef with onions and peppers, steak cut French fries, honey glazed carrots, vanilla mousse, sandwich roll

FRI. – Macaroni and cheese, stewed tomatoes, green beans, fruited ambrosia, Italian bread

\*Diabetic friendly dessert

\*\*Higher sodium entree

Meal includes milk and margarine. Menus are subject to change. All meals are served at about 11:45 a.m. each weekday. Reservations should be made the day before by calling 978-355-5027 before 10:30 a.m. The donation of \$2.50 per meal helps keep the program running.

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Opinion

Guest Column

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

Questions benefit amount after claim delayed

By Russell Gloor  
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: I am having problems getting answers from the national Social Security office or the local agent who I first spoke with to apply for my benefits. I am 70 in January 2021, and applied for benefits at the end of August 2020. I asked to have benefits start in October 2020, with my first payment received in November. I was told that the benefit for applying at age 69 and nine months would not be received until January of 2021. Until then, I would receive the 69 years and 0 months payment, which I received in November and December of 2020. In January 2021 however, I received the same 2020 payment plus the COLA increase. I’ve asked what’s up at the local office and have been waiting for a return phone call. My first question: is the amount I received in November and December last year correct: it is only the age 69 amount, not the 69 and 9 months benefit for the age I was at the time? And second, if that’s true, when in 2021 should I get my full amount? Signed: Confused

Dear Confused: I’ll try to clear this up for you. Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) of 0.667% are earned monthly for each full month you delay claiming after your full retirement age (which for you is 66). But although you earn delayed retirement credits monthly, Social Security only applies them in January of each year. You don’t lose them; they just don’t do the benefit adjustment until January of each year. That’s why you got only the age 69 benefit when you started your benefits in October and why your payment in November and December didn’t include those DRCs.

The Social Security payment you received in January was actually for your December benefits, and included the 2021 COLA increase (which is computed using your December benefit). And just as an FYI, they do apply DRCs immediately for anyone who claims at age 70, regardless of the month they claim. What happened to you was because you claimed before you were 70.

The additional 6% DRCs you earned between January and September last year should be applied in January of this year and should be included in your next benefit check, which you will receive in February (Social Security pays benefits in the month following when they are earned). When they do that computation, they’ll automatically adjust your COLA using your new benefit amount. So, what you were told by the Social Security agent is essentially correct – your benefit payment won’t reflect those additional DRCs for 2020 until your January 2021 payment, which you will receive in February.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation’s staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor with AMAC.

Letter to the Editor

Reader gives background on ‘Where is this?’ photo

The where is this photo is the entry guard station building Rutland, Maple Avenue. The building was used as the guard shelter check point for all person and vehicle entry to the U.S. Government VA Hospital for all WWII servicemen, patients, all doctors and service/support workers. There were two white wooden benches on each side of single entry side.

If you drive along side Maple Avenue, you can see the solid, steel fence that once surrounded the hospital grounds and main entry.

Today, Feb. 6 everything except the U.S. Flag pole on what were the hospital main building is gone.

My mother grew up on a large dairy farm on what is today known as Cold Brook Road.

Robert Mattson  
Rutland

PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT BARRE, MA  
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In Past Pages

5 years ago (March 10, 2016)

Margaret Riley and Alex Marcinkiewicz, both of Hubbardston, are Ariel and Prince Eric in the Hubbardston Community Theatre’s production of “The Little Mermaid” this weekend at the Hubbardston Center School.

Athletic director, Mark Miville, shared results of a survey filled out by Quabbin students and parents with the Quabbin Regional School District Policy, Review and Reform Subcommittee. Miville stated that 260 responded from grades 7 through 12. He explained that the survey was anonymous and went to all students at the middle/high school. Participation was about even between male and female students. The survey asked what additional school sport students and parents would like. Responses included fall cheerleading and volleyball for girls, hockey and middle school indoor track for winter and lacrosse in spring. Skiing and swimming were also listed and suggested as possible cooperative sports. Wachusett Regional has a ski team and Gardner High School, swimming. Several students already participate in hockey at Gardner High.

Incumbents Nancy Allen and Lynn Jones Peredina retained their seats on the select board and Petersham School Committee, respectively. Allen won another three-year term to the board of selectmen with 208 votes. Her challenger, a former selectmen, received 169 votes. Lynn Jones Peredina received another three-year term on the Petersham School Committee with 195 votes to 141 for Anne Marie Goodfellow. With 380 voters casting ballots, voter turnout was 41 percent for the annual town election. All other candidates ran unopposed.

10 years ago (Feb. 24, 2011)

Air Force Reserve Airman 1st Class Adom J. Pond graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness and basic warfare principles and skills. Airmen, who complete basic training, earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force. He is the son of Donna Pond of Petersham and graduated in 2008 from Quabbin Regional High School, Barre.

Quabbin Middle School teachers, Sarah Latka and Kathryn Inman are in the process of collecting donations of gently used semi-formal, prom or other formal dresses to be sold at the upcoming middle school craft fair. Proceeds from the dress sale and craft fair will benefit the upcoming eighth grade field trip to Washington, D.C. in April. Latka said that so far, she has 64 dresses to sell at the event. The dress prices will range from \$10-30. “We keep the prices low because it’s too expen-

LOOK BACK  
Barre High School Hornets Reunion - 2016



Turley Publications File Photo

Michael Staiti, from left, Rick Lamacchia and Francis Gromelski hold trophies that the Barre High School Hornets won in 1961 during a reunion held in Barre.

sive for us to dry-clean the dresses. Although, some come in brand new with the tags still on them,” she said. Inman said the dress sale and craft fair is a school-wide effort. “The teachers do so much to help. They stay for the whole day and bring whatever we need. Between the teachers and the kids, it’s really an effort to make this work, and it really helps the students.”

Last week, Quabbin Regional High School held its Spirit Week with students participating in various activities and contests. The theme for Spirit Week was “Hollywood.” On Monday, students would wear their school colors, to be counted in their homerooms. Tuesday was “plaid day,” Wednesday was “80’s day,” Thursday was “color wars day,” and on Friday, students wore red, to “show the love.” Students also created spirit banners and held penny wars. The winning classes would collect points and those with the most points will win the golden snowball trophy. The week ended with a Winter Carnival, with contests such as snow sculpting, ping pong, chess, basketball, Wii and badminton tournaments, a pie eating contest and a tug of war and a Winter Ball, held that evening.

25 years ago (Feb. 22, 1996)

Mr. and Mrs. James K. Culver celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary recently at a family gathering at Too Shea’s restaurant in Gardner. They have five children, Kenneth, Raymond and James of Barre; Lynn Ann Zukas of Spencer and Lana Culver of Bellvue, Wash.; and four grandchildren. James and the former Kathleen A. Sykes were married on Feb. 9, 1946 in Christ Episcopal Church of South Barre.

The sixth grade Girls Scouts in Petersham have been delving into history of late using the Village Cemetery as a place of reference. With advice from Delight Haines, town historian, the girls noted outstanding monuments, such as for the Miles family, with several generations beginning with General Benjamin Miles of Revolutionary War fame. They discovered a stone

for Dr. John Flint who is recorded to have died from “spotted fever.” Aaron Whitney, first minister of the church in Petersham, now the First Church Unitarian, is also buried there. By persuasion a Tory, Aaron Whitney was later kept from the church by the loyal-to-America residents. The Whitney monument is unusual in that it is a large table, which easily catches the eye when going by the cemetery. The Pond Monument was located. This family left a fund, which is, recalled each town meeting when the money is voted toward cemetery accounts. The stone of John Fiske, grandfather of the late John Fiske who was well known for his sage advice and environmental concerns by modern residents was noted.

On the final regular season home date, a night devoted to seniors, the Lady Panthers defeated Hudson 66 to 45. It has been a tradition for many years that the seniors present their parents a rose to thank them for all the years of supporting them. It was a little different on the 13th of February as an even more festive air was in the gym. Meghan Inzerillo, a four-year varsity players, was six points shy of 1,000 for her career, a feat only attained by two other female Quabbin athletes. Meghan has been averaging 15 points a game this season so it was going to happen on this day, it was just a matter of time. Hudson scored the first hoop of the night for its only lead of the evening. Meghan quickly launched a three-point shot and was half-way there. The next possession was a drive to the basket, and a foul and her fourth and fifth points to close in on the magical mark. The other seniors on the squad – Jamie Szafarowicz, Katie Eagan, Susan Klein, Toni Musnicki and Patty Rich – were working hard to help her accomplish her feat on this special night. As the game continued, Toni Musnicki scored one from the foul line to keep Quabbin ahead, but the next possession proved to be eventful. Szafarowicz passed to Inzerillo who drove, but missed the shot. Meghan grabbed the rebound and put it back in to pass the

Guest column

Adventures of Gertrude the Cat

By Ruth Robinson

Dear Folks,  
I had quite the adventure today. First, Missy got out her little machine that shreds papers. It made a horrible noise, but some of the squiggles got loose when she dumped the first load. They were fun to pick up with my teeth and bat others. However, that got boring.



Suddenly, the kitchen door burst open and in came the next door neighbor with her new dog. I dusted for the bedroom even though the dog was on a short leash. I heard her tell Missy she simply had to bring over her new baby. Baby, my foot it was more like a yapping fluffy mess. Ugh, I don’t like dogs anyway, but Missy’s son’s dog, Luigi. I love him and he likes me. He doesn’t chase me and is old like me with frail bones. We get along just fine and sometimes he even eats my food.

Anyway, I stayed in the bedroom out of sight until the lady went home. She didn’t stay long, thank goodness. I think Missy was glad also as she prefers cats to dogs.

Then, I remembered there was something new in Missy’s bedroom chair. I had seen it after breakfast when I had jumped up on her bed to look out the window. So I jumped up in the chair and was able to tip Missy’s snow boots over and pulled one down on the wooden floor. Since one came down nicely, I decided to get the other one, but my claw caught in the laces of that boot and I had trouble getting it loose. Finally, I was able to bang the bedpost and my claw came free.

Hooray, right then I decided I better go into the living room for a while before Missy found out what I had done with her boots. I was going to mess with the newspapers today also, but I’ll do it another day.

Take care of yourselves this week folks.  
Love,  
Gertrude

NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue’s relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for the Barre Gazette, please email edowner@turley.com.

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BARRE GAZETTE

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# Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

I hope all the readers had a nice Valentine's day. I have taken my Valentine's tree decorations down and put up some St. Patrick's and spring items on the tree. I'm hoping spring is not far behind.

Here is another recipe from the Heywood Hospital recipe book, which sounded very easy. I will put ice cream in my puffs as Ken brought some mint chocolate chip ice cream, which would be good.

### DAD'S CREAM PUFFS

1 cup boiling water  
1/2 cup butter  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1 cup flour  
4 eggs, unbeaten  
Bring water butter and salt to boil. Add flour all at once. Then over low heat whip with spoon until mixture leaves sides of pan. Remove from heat and cool. Add eggs one at a time, beating well. Spoon large heap on cookie sheet. Bake at 375 degrees for 3/4 hour. Makes 16 puff shells. Fill with cream filling, pudding or ice cream, by cutting opening in middle of each puff. Top with fudge or chocolate sauce. Note: Sometimes I have to scrap out a little of the shell that may be moist.

### This and That

The Hubbardston Board of Health have announced a vaccine clinic for seniors 75 and older from Hubbardston on Feb. 20 and Feb. 21. They must call 978-928-1400 extension 209 for an appointment.

Ken and I won't be going as we got appointments for the vaccine at the PACC in Gardner and our second one will be March 4. Hopefully, all seniors, who ave not gotten their shots, will participate. It will be held in the Hubbardston Center School gym. They are asked to wear a short sleeve shirt. A waiting period for observation will be held after the shot.

My friends like to send me funny things to make me laugh. Recently my friend from Virginia sent me this one. "Don't you hate it when you put something in a safe place so you don't lose it... then forget where that safe place is." Another one that is so true.... "8 year olds today have Facebook, iPhones and xbox's. When I was 8 I had a coloring book, the outdoors and an imagination." It is so true. I'm still working on some botanical flower watercolors.

As a senior, here are some things I do to help with housework. I have a basket with a handle next to the cellar door so every time I find some thing that needs to go down cellar it goes into the basket. I also have a stair basket that I put things, which need to go to the second floor. Each morning after I have my breakfast, I check my emails on the computer and then take the rubbish and compost down cellar and check the basket to see what I need to bring down. I do the clothes washing

in the basement at the same time. We keep two wastebaskets in the kitchen. One for trash and one with paper items, which can be recycled. In the cellar, we keep a large bag with returnable bottles that we give to the Hubbardston Senior Center. They use the money from the bottles to buy figures for the Nativity Scene for Christmas.

Another thing I do is have four vacuum cleaners. We use a shop vacuum for the cellar. I have one upstairs, one in the den and one in my sewing room. I also have a hand vacuum I use for small jobs. Two of my favorite tools is the leaf blower I use on the decks in the spring and summer. The other is a weed whacker, which uses the same batteries. Both are battery run and easy to handle.

Now all I need to do is find a young man that would like to climb a ladder and clean my chandeliers and replace the bulbs. We did take out the glass inserts as we could not clean them. I do have a long pole type duster so I can dust them.

During this quarantine, I have mostly missed going to the Salvation Army, Rietta Ranch flea market, yard sales and fairs. Of course, I have missed visiting all my friends and relatives, but I do talk with them on the telephone. Soon things will be different if everyone will wear their masks.

## Massachusetts has record 2020 turkey harvest

REGION - The spring turkey harvest for 2020 was 3,310 including 73 on youth day and was the highest spring season ever recorded. This record har-

vest can most likely be attributed to the increase in hunter effort, which resulted from COVID-19 closures. The 2020 fall turkey harvest was 256, the highest fall

season total in over 20 years. An expanded fall archery season and an increased annual limit likely contributed to the high fall harvest.

## HUBBARDSTON, continued from page 1

held successful clinics. The board of health received a call from someone, who received the first shot at Walgreens. Walgreens was not doing second vaccines and the individual asked if this clinic was doing second vaccine shots. The

board also received a call from someone, who had the first shot at Walgreens and ended up driving to Connecticut for the second shot. The chair said this should be reported to the state.

### Other business

The board of health voted to approve the following permits and items: Ron Burton-food, camp,

pool; Favreau, hauler; Sunflower Pastry, residential kitchen; Parcel, hauler; American Sewerage, hauler; Scottie Pottie, hauler; Republic Services, trash hauler; E.L. Harvey, trash hauler; Giacomos, food establishment; Ladybug Farm, residential kitchen; Westfield Farm, food establishment and Hubb Town Diner.

## QRSD, continued from page 1

Club. Legare said the Drama Club normally did a regular theatrical production. However, this year due to COVID-19 the club would be doing virtual monologues, which the students wrote. McMenemy said she was a stage manager, but this year she would be performing a monologue.

### Budget subcommittee

Mark Wigler said the budget subcommittee met last week. He said revenue was a major issue for the coming year budget. The preliminary budget added ten new staffing positions. He said staffing included three classroom teachers at Ruggles, a high school library media director, several para- professionals and possibly a transitional first grade teacher. He said this was a "unique year." The FY 22 preliminary budget of \$37,1788,779 was a 6.2% increase. At this time, only the Governor's budget was available. The House budget should come out the end of March.

## PAST PAGES, continued from page 4

1,000th point mark. The rest of the team raced off the bench to congratulate her as the game was stopped and the ball, along with a bouquet of roses, were presented to Inzerillo.

38 years ago (Feb. 24, 1983)

Meghan Ann Gallery, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John B. Gallery of Pleasant Street, a senior at Quabbin Regional High School, plans to attend Anna Maria College in Paxton next year. She has selected Biology as her area of study. She has participated in several activities at Quabbin including the Spanish Club, Conservation Corp., Senior Bazaar, National Honor Society, the Panther Press and Office Education Association.

Out of 133 entrants in the Fishing Derby sponsored by the Rutland Fire Department on Long Pond February 5, Mark Crawford, 16, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Crawford, Tomlinson Road, Oakham, won the grand prize fro the largest fish caught. Mark's fish, a pickerel, weighed 4 pounds, 6 ounces and was 26" long. The prize was \$135. Mark was not content with that. He also placed third with a 2 pound, 15 ounce pickerel for which he received a shiner box. Mark is in Grade 10 at Quabbin Regional High School.

The Barre special town meeting was delayed about 15 minutes Tuesday evening, Feb. 22, waiting for a quorum of 50 voters. When the meeting finally started, Moderator Francis Cranston noted that this was the first town meeting to be held in the refurbished town hall and also the last official town meeting for Selectman Chairman J. Howard Thompson who has faithfully served on the board for the past 9 years.

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# In My Backyard by Ellenor Downer

I received an email from a Brookfield resident, who had a Coopers hawk perched in a tree in his yard for about two hours on Feb. 3. He also include a photo of the hawk.

The Coopers hawk is about 16 inches long and has a long narrow tail. The adult is blue gray above, light below with reddish-brown barring. Its crown is darker than the back. The immature is dark brown above, light below with thin brown streaks and keeps the immature plumage for a year.

The female lays three to six pale blue green eggs with dark spots in a platform nest of sticks and lined with bark placed in a tree. During breeding season, it has regular feeding routes where it hunts for common medium sized birds like mourning doves, blue jays and starlings. In winter, it may show up at bird feeders.

### Starlings and suet cakes

I also received an email from a woman, who had starlings come to her homemade suet. Here is the recipe for the suet.

**HOMEMADE WILD BIRD SUET**  
*prep time 10 minutes and cook time 15 minutes*

**Ingredients**  
½ cup rendered fat or lard  
2 cup old-fashioned oats (not instant)  
2 cups chunky peanut butter  
2 cups beef broth  
½ cup sugar  
½ cup raisins/dried cranberries or chopped nuts (optional)  
1 ½ cup wild bird seed  
Squares of wax paper (to put between sliced cakes for storage)

**Instructions**  
In a large pot, combine lard, oatmeal, peanut butter, broth and sugar stirring frequently.  
Heat to a boil, then reduce to a simmer.  
Simmer for 20 minutes or so or until mixture is the consistency of thick oatmeal.  
Stir in raisins and /or nuts.  
Remove from heat and stir in bird seed.  
Pour into mold and put in freezer, cooling until hardened.  
Once hardened, remove suet

"brick" from freezer and allow it to soften slightly to ease in cutting.

Store thawed cakes in refrigerator for up to one week or refreeze with a sheet of wax paper in between.

Note: This recipe is not practical for the hot summer months, where the cake will turn rancid quickly, but it is great during the winter months when it will maintain its freshness and shape.

### Bluebirds

I received an email from an Oakham resident. He said, "I've lived her by Dean Pond for more than 35 years and have never, ever seen a bluebird in my yard, but today (Feb. 13), three male bluebirds were at my suet feeder." He also said, "I've had a bluebird house in my yard for years and the only occupants I can remember were flying squirrels."

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

## WCCD holds annual plant and seedling fundraiser

WORCESTER – The Worcester County Conservation District announces the start of its spring plant and seedling fundraiser. It offers bare-root seedling trees, shrubs, fruits and potted perennials, with many native plant options. Pre-order online from now through Wednesday, March 31. People will pick-up purchased plants Saturday, May 1 at one of six farm locations in Worcester County.

"With so much time spent at home, people have devoted more time to tending their properties, and many have newly discovered gardening and growing food. Many of us have found refuge, solace, even joy in growing plants. We hope to further engage all growers," said Kathryn Zichelle Sullivan, plant and seedling coordinator.

This year's conservation theme is Promoting Native Plants for neighborhoods, yards, farms and gardens. WCCD promotes native plants by

making their importance better known and by making them easily available. People may learn more about which plants are native and their essential roles in the ecosystem by visiting the website, and joining the virtual presentations. Upcoming presentations include: Installing Rain Gardens with Native Plants; Native Plants and Birds, with a speaker from Mass Audubon and Lawns and Lawn Alternatives with a speaker from Massachusetts Master Gardeners.

"Using our fundraiser as a platform for education, we hope to engage individuals in conservation right at home," said Zichelle Sullivan. "Native plants are already adapted to be here. They require less work and fewer inputs than non-native plants and will naturally attract and support native wildlife."

Bare-root seedlings are still in their winter dormant state. This means, they have no soil and few

leaves. They are inexpensive to transport and do not deplete the soils from their nursery. WCCD also sources plants from small growers, four of which are Massachusetts businesses.

The plant and seedling fundraiser enables WCCD, in cooperation with the USDA-NRCS, to assist landowners on issues related to water quality, soil health, forest management and farm resource management. WCCD offers technical assistance and on-site soil evaluations to the public. It provides funding for educational sessions, hosts workshops, offers Envirothon grants and a scholarship program. www.worcesterconservation.org WCCD has a comprehensive website to view products and place orders. Founded in the 1940s Worcester County Conservation District is run by a board of local volunteers with a commitment to conservation in the community.



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# Where is this?



Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer

This week’s mystery photo is from Hardwick. If any readers know where this photo was taken, they may email [edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com) or call the Barre Gazette at 413-967-3505, extension 100 with their answer by noon on Monday, Feb. 22. The names of those that correctly guessed the location will appear in next week’s edition. Gary Brigham, Paul Carlson, Dick Clark, Stephen Craven, Barbara Kempski, Corinna LaPorte, Evelyn Lukko, Bruce Towner and Jeremy Varnum correctly identified the photo. Last week’s photo was the entrance to Cook’s Canyon, South Street, Barre.

## MINISTER, continued from page 1

She eventually served in Thailand as well as several states including Mississippi, Wisconsin, Vermont and California as well as several congregations in Massachusetts, including Woburn, East Walpole and Orleans. She also served for a number of years as a Protestant chaplain for Bentley University in Waltham.

When she saw an opening for a church in West Brookfield she decided to explore it, and she and the congregation seemed to be a good fit, she said. She preached on Halloween weekend last year and was called by the congregation to be their desig-

nated pastor on Nov. 1, 2020.

She added that the timing was right for both her and the church. “I was looking around a little bit for a full-time ministry as I found I really missed it, and they were looking for a full-time pastor,” she said.

“Through the years, my experience and training has been to help churches become healthier and more focused on their mission to be agents of compassion, justice and inclusion,” she said. “My special-ty has been to assist in addressing conflict and the need for deeper discernment about how we shape “life together” in the context of being “church.” She expects to work on communication within the congre-gation and to help them create a mission statement as some of the



Courtesy photos

**Rev. Dr. Ann Michele Rogers Brigham is the newest minister of the First Congregational Church of West Brookfield. She started Jan. 1.**

work that is addressed first.

She said she loves being a min-ister and is enjoying meeting her congregation and others in West Brookfield.

“The best thing is the people,” she said. “I’m just meeting them but they are giving, generous, caring people, and they are a beacon of hope during a time when people are finding it very difficult.” They helped her find an apartment in town right down the street from the church and she enjoys her walks about town very much, getting a chance to meet members of the congregation and others.

She looks forward to her work with the congregation. “You have to remind yourself that change comes slowly and it’s important to be a good listener – to listen and respond and try to be patient.”

“Every church is a little differ-ent and unique and it’s an honor to walk with them on this spiritual journey,” she said.



Rev. Dr. Ann Michele Rogers Brigham preaches to the First Congregational Church of West Brookfield outside last October in the church parking lot. The congregation has called her to be the congregation's minister.

## SOPHIE, continued from page 1

created. Sofie is always hoping they will also share a snack with her. Studies have shown that read-ing to a dog, or other pet, can improve a child’s love of reading and boost reading confidence. It is beneficial to the animal also, as Sofie loves to be the center of attention. This past week’s story was “Worry!” by Michael Buxton, about an anxious puff-erfish named Peter. Children and their families made soap slime along with Miss Paula. Slime can make a great coping mechanism and help reduce worry in stressful situations.

Sofie arrived at virtual play-group in her Valentine’s Day best, complete with a matching red headband. After being intro-duced to the children in the Zoom meeting, Sofie taught them how to dance the Hokey Pokey from the comfort of her chair. Next, she decided to show them a magic trick (as she does not perform traditional “dog” tricks) with the

assistance of Olivo. Miss Paula kept the “magic” going by con-ducting some simple science experiments. Sofie closed the group with a dance party to the song “Love Shack.”

To receive a Zoom invitation to Hardwick Playgroup, or any of the MOC CFCE playgroups,



Turley Publications Photo by Steve Olivo

**Sofie takes a short break from her performance while Miss Paula shows the chil-dren how to make “floating hearts” using a glass plate, dry erase marker and water. To make your own “floating hearts” at home, simply draw heart shapes on a glass or ceramic plate with a dry erase marker. Carefully add water to the plate, covering the hearts, and watch the hearts begin to float. For added fun, use a straw to gently blow the hearts around the plate once they start floating.**

## NORTH BROOKFIELD, continued from page 1

horseback riding, 19%, and hunt-ing with 14%.

The third questions was “What would you most like to see be a part of town?” The top answer was “new parks, picnic areas, walking trails – recreation” with 37%.

The fourth question was “Should the town work to invest money/grants acquiring land in town?” The response was divided among wetlands and forest conser-vation, 21%, nothing, 19%, parks, 18%, water access, 11%, farms and landscapes, 10%, with commu-nity gardens and sports fields tying at 7% each.

Hicks said while she thinks peo-ple are clearly excited about out-door activities, they may not be as eager to spend money on it. She pointed out that it is possible to preserve land through grants, such as the town and East Quabbin Land Trust with Wendemuth Meadow on Bates Street.

Joseph Holway commented on the tremendous work various peo-ple have done for areas in town, but questioned how the town will maintain these spaces going for-ward. Holway said that as they expand the Rail Trail and other spaces, they need to keep in mind that the Fire Department does not have the equipment to rescue peo-ple from the woods. Holway said he felt the town should also have a parks and recreation committee.

Another resident said even though 19% of those surveyed were not in favor of investing money/grants for acquiring land, 81% were. Hicks said that private landowners can also put conserva-tion restrictions on their land and preserve it, while remaining own-ers of the land.

### Historic landmarks

The 2007 Open Space and Recreation Plan created a list of North Brookfield’s natural and cul-

tural resources. Sharon Donovan, of the Historical Commission, said she and Marilyn Borst, also on the Historical Commission, have been compiling a list of historical land-marks using both the 2007 list and a reconnaissance report from 2013.

She said they will hopefully be enlisting local high school students to assist them so they can submit a completed list to the Massachusetts Historical Commission. Hicks said that she would be grateful if they shared their findings with the Master Plan Committee so it be added to their list. A resident com-mented that it would be helpful to have a map of these scenic and unique environments. Hicks said they would like to provide a map of the most significant areas.

Avery reminded residents that many of these environments are on private property. Orsi said they should consider adding a column on the plan that describes what land is private and what is pub-lic. Borst stated that some places, such as Brooks Pond, are private-ly-owned, but open to the public if the rules of the property are respected and followed.

### Master Plan goals

Hicks said the purpose of the Master Plan is to create goals and objectives. In the 2007 plan there were four goals. Hicks said they will be reviewing these goals and determining what changes could kept or removed.

The first goal was “Maintain North Brookfield’s Rural Character.” Residents at the forum agreed that this goal should remain in the current plan. Many residents expressed a desire to protect farms and microfarms, and to also create a comprehensive list of local farms.

The second goal was “Preserve and Enhance North Brookfield’s Water Resources.” Residents voiced that this goal is still very important, especially preserving the ponds, rivers and reservoir. Holway, who is also the town’s fire

chief, said the Horse Pond reser-voir is actually very vulnerable. He said if an oil truck were to overturn on Rufus Putnam Road, it could spill oil into the reservoir. A resi-dent agreed and commented that North Brookfield is lucky to own their water supply. Holway said they might want to consider the addition of “back-up” wells in the event the reservoir was to become contaminated, as the town does not currently have any.

The third goal was “Enhance the Community’s Knowledge about Open Space in North Brookfield.” Orsi suggested encouraging the school to host local field trips to explore the flora and fauna of the town to promote education.

The fourth goal was “Provide North Brookfield with Varied and Well-Maintained Recreational Opportunities and Facilities.” Orsi said that “enhance” might be a bet-ter word than “provide” for this goal. She feels it is a great goal but could use some rewording to coincide with projects that they are working on.

Hicks said a possible new goal for the 2021 plan that she wanted to adapt is, “To create a resilient, connected network of protected lands where natural systems can provide the ecological services that will maintain the health and well-being of North Brookfield res-idents into the future.” Residents agreed that this fifth goal should be added to the current plan, in addition to the 2007 goals. Hicks said this goal is about the future. “It’s about protecting the nature that keeps up alive,” she said.

North Brookfield residents are encouraged to contact Hicks at [FabHicks@aol.com](mailto:FabHicks@aol.com) with any feedback on the Open Space and Recreation Plan. Orsi said there will be several more forums in the future as they work on this plan.

Residents thanked the Master Plan Committee for their efforts and for hosting the forum.

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## Panthers grab win on ‘Senior Day’

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

BARRE — Winning a game on Senior Day is always extra special. Just ask the seven Quabbin boys basketball seniors.

The Panthers were able to celebrate a 62-45 senior day victory over the Narragansett Warriors, last Saturday afternoon.

“A rewarding experience for all of our coaching staff to honor and recognize the seven seniors,” said Quabbin head coach Dennis Dextradeur. “They have endured and persevered through a mosaic of a pandemic season and that

determination and effort should be applauded. Not only has that been quite an achievement but they have had a very successful season on the court as well. When you have the opportunity to coach and teach these young men you realize, as I always have, that it is indeed about the trust and relationships you build.”

The home victory pushed Quabbin’s season record over the .500 mark at 5-4. After winning their first three games of the delayed season, the Panthers lost four straight games. They ended their losing skid with a 56-44 home win against Leominster, last

Thursday night. The 62 points that the Panthers scored against the Warriors is a season high.

The seven Panthers seniors, who were honored in a ceremony held prior to the start of the Narragansett game, are Nick Farrell, Ryan Kowal, Devin Pride, Jake Sherblom, Brendan Whitelaw, Ryan Wagher, and Shea Skowrya.

Whitelaw, who had 6 points, 6 assists, and 8 rebounds on senior day, along with Skowrya, who posted a double-double with a game-high 17 points and 12 rebounds, are the Panthers co-captains this winter.

“Shea Skowrya and Brendan

Whitelaw have been exceptional captains in the leadership and counsel they have provided our entire team and program,” Dextradeur said. “Both are everything you would want in desirable peer models for our younger players and I’m sure parents are as happy as we are having them lead the program because to become a good leader you must have first been a good follower. Both have the skills to take their game to the next level and it will be fun watching them develop beyond their high school years.”

The Panthers other three starters on senior day were Kowal (7

points, 6 rebounds), Sherblom (2 steals), and Pride (10 points, 4 rebounds, 3 steals)

“Ryan Kowal and Devin Pride have really excelled this year on the court,” Dextradeur said. “Every one of our players and staff admires the enthusiasm and perseverance that Jake Sherblom brings every day. Statistics will never measure that contribution but every game he meant everything to our success for being the supreme teammate. He has been with our program for as long as I can remember.”

Farrell was credited with two rebounds. Wagher scored 2 points

and had 3 steals.

“Nick Farrell is one of the most respected and listened to student-athletes I have observed over my 41 years,” Dextradeur said. “He is a remarkable young man who performed one of the most selfless acts you’ll ever witness when he volunteered to play minutes on the young JV team that needed to learn poise, focus, discipline and the pursuit of excellence. Ryan Wagher is a superb all-around athlete and we call him ‘nails’ for the toughness he brings our team. He is as tough as nails and as fun to coach as any

See PANTHERS, page 8

## MIAA hoping for successful Fall 2 season

FRANKLIN — The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) COVID-19 Task Force representatives presented Fall II Season sport modifications and recommendations today for the 2020-2021 year to the MIAA Board of Directors.

This presentation culminated the MIAA governance process which included sport-specific sub-committee meetings where current Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) and Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary (DESE) guidelines were reviewed. Sport sub-committees created or updated sport specific modifications, presented them for approval to the full sport committee and then presented, for approval, to the MIAA Sports Medicine Committee (SMC). The MIAA Covid-19 Task force subsequently reviewed and approved the modifications.

MIAA Executive Director Bill Gaine stated, “Today’s actions by the MIAA’s Board of Directors are the culmination of the work of our membership committed to establishing optimal standards of health and safety that will provide the restoration of Fall sports for 1000s of MIAA student-athletes.”

See MIAA , page 9

## Hampshire association seeking umpires

REGION — The Hampshire Franklin Baseball Umpire Association (HFBUA) is planning to conduct classes for the 2021 baseball season following all recommended COVID-19 protocols including the possibility of on-line instruction. The association covers umpiring of scholastic baseball for all of Hampshire and Franklin county schools registered under MIAA and several other baseball leagues in the area. If you are interested in umpiring baseball or obtaining further information regarding the upcoming classes please contact Roger Booth - Secretary/Treasurer of the HFBUA via email at quilthunter@comcast.net.

## Pioneers return to action



Darren Wawro goes for a shot ahead of a block.



Austin Lagimoniore shoots a layup.

PALMER — After a long layoff, the Pathfinder High School boys basketball team finally got a chance to take the court in the winter season. Last Friday night, the Pioneers defeated Hampden Charter School of Science 65-41. The Pioneers are scheduled for several games through the end of February before the sports season shifts to football.



Jordan Talbot holds the ball before moving it around the arc.



Nick Beaulieu attempts to shoot before being blocked.

## Vigeant looks to make his Tri Track mark in 2021



Submitted photo

Kurt Vigeant will be among hopefuls in Tri Track series this year.

SEEKONK — Kurt Vigeant will look to make his mark in the Tri Track Open Modified Series in 2021. The driver of the familiar white and orange No. 7 is set to compete in all of the races in the new season and hopes to continue to make gains into the top 10 as part of one of the most competitive fields in Modified racing.

Vigeant, who has been involved in racing since the age of 12, broke into the sport with AMA Motocross and became the Grand National Champion. He continued into the Pro 4 Modifieds, where he went to Victory Lane, then became a two-time champion at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park in their Modified division. All of this experience drove his interest to move into the Tour-Type Modifieds, where he runs today, specifically with Tri Track. He’s hoping to make gains on his previous efforts during the 2021 season.

“When I started in these types of Modifieds we ran a few races, then totaled the car and it took two years to fix it because we didn’t have the funds,” Vigeant said. “I enjoy the schedule that Tri Track has with the bullring tracks. I don’t think anyone is

content where they are running, until you are on the top.”

Vigeant is no stranger to the series, competing at all of the tracks that Tri Track will visit during the 2021 season. Enjoying the bullrings makes Tri Track a perfect fit -- as the series makes the schedule based off the tracks that equal the playing field and put the capabilities of the driver into the forefront.

“I’ve had good success when it comes to qualifying for the features,” Vigeant said. “I think I’ve only missed two since I started running with Tri Track. But I’m lacking those finishes... I need some luck. It’s tough to compete, as an underfunded team, on a series with a lot of talent. But we are fighting, and I couldn’t do it without my sponsor and my team.”

Vigeant carries the colors of Gary Rice Equipment and Service on the car, and has a variety of crew members that are regulars with him at the track. He is always looking for additional sponsors to help him get through the season, whether big or small. Crew members include Rob Anderson, Josh O’Connell, Joey

See RACING , page 8

## Sign-ups now available for 2021 Relics softball

LUDLOW — The Western Mass Relics has opened registration for the 2021 Senior Softball Season. The Silver Division (age 50 to 64) has filled 36 of the 112 spots and the Gold Division (65-and-up) has filled

32 of the 96 spots. The registrations are accepted on a first come first serve basis. All our games are played at the Fish & Game in Ludlow. For further information or to register go to <http://www.westernmassrelics.org>.

## Bay State Games partners with charter schools

WOBURN — Bay State Games is excited to announce new partnerships with the Massachusetts Charter School Athletic Organization (MCSAO) and New England Preparatory School Athletic Conference (NEPSAC). Bay State Games has a long history with the Massachusetts Secondary School Athletic Directors Association, and now with this new partnership with the MCSAO and NEPSAC, BSG is hoping to reach all Massachusetts high school students.

Both the MCSAO and NEPSAC organize athletic championships for their respective leagues and reach thousands of student-athletes every year. Bay State Games hopes this partnership will help share athletic and educational opportunities to every high school student-athlete in Massachusetts. “The MCSAO is very excited to partner with an organization like the Bay State Games. Working together we are hopeful to provide more opportunities for student-athletes to compete in dif-

ferent high-level athletic tournaments and venues,” says Drew Betts, Co-Executive Director of the Massachusetts Charter School Athletic Organization. “In addition, we are pleased that this will be additional avenues for student athletes within the MCSAO to work with the Bay State Games to promote teamwork and sportsmanship in support of the Games mission.” Of the new partnership, NEPSAC President George Tahan said, “We at NEPSAC are thrilled to

be able to partner with the Bay State Games and help afford NEPSAC student-athletes with additional opportunities to participate in a number of sports and event offerings. NEPSAC’s principle purpose aligns seamlessly with the Bay State Games mission of ‘promoting personal development, education, physical fitness, teamwork, and sportsmanship’ and we at NEPSAC look forward to long

See BAYSTATE , page 9

## Pioneers to host Pelham clinic

LUDLOW — Western United Pioneers FC is excited to offer a soccer clinic in Pelham, MA for players in the Massachusetts North Region. The clinic provides off-season training and skill development by WUP FC coaches. The second sessions available.

This program is offered to boys and girls born in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014. The four-week program includes one practice per week for a total of \$65 per session. Sessions will

consist of a max of 15 players per field (COVID regulation for the players’ safety).

SESSION 2: MONDAYS 2/22, 3/1, 3/8, and 3/15

Boys and Girls Born 2013 and 2014: Session is at 5 p.m.

Boys and Girls Born 2010, 2011, and 2012: Session is at 6 p.m.

The sessions will be held at Pelham Elementary School at 45 Amherst Road, Pelham, MA 01002.







# Church News

## Local pastors offer sermons

### When God says ‘no’

A mentor offered the following insight many years ago when I was a new believer: “God answers every prayer with no, yes or not yet.” This one bit of wisdom has proven remarkably true in my experience. In this edition let us consider the “no” of the Lord, beginning with the following two-paragraph quotation:

“God is just as good to us in His denials as He is in His approvals. The denials of God are immeasurable mercies. If God answered all our prayers with a positive response, how miserable we would be. Thank heaven that heaven says no! Negations, restrictions, refusals, denials and rejections are all divine mercies. May we be as thankful when God says no as when He says yes.

God can sustain us in a hostile environment, shielding us. God can also lead us through the valley of the shadow of death. It is His choice. God can exalt us before humanity. He can also invite us into His humility and shame. He gets to write the story. When we accept His divine denials as well as His divine approvals, we embrace His authorship of our lives. When we let Jesus write our stories, we can be assured of His ongoing, joy-filled presence. Joy in the presence of Jesus is far better than the bitterness of getting our own way as a result of wayward prayers.”

Has the Lord ever told you “no?” This can be one of the most disillusioning events in the Christian life, causing us to doubt His very goodness and love. Yet the whole of Scripture calls us to recognize that Father knows best, inviting us to yield to His boundless wisdom and good purpose (e.g., Prov. 3:5-6). Could it be that God said “no” for a reason that is beyond you or your capacity to understand in the moment? Accordingly, do you realize that He said “no” even to the plea of His only begotten Son? Take note of the following account from one of the final moments of Jesus’ life.

#### Matthew 26:36-44

36 . . . Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” 37 He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. 38 Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”

39 Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.” 40 Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Couldn’t you men keep watch with me for one hour?” he asked Peter. 41 “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

42 He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.” 43 When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. 44 So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third

time, saying the same thing.

Confronted by the imminence of His own death, Jesus sought for a way of escape. I cannot blame Him, for no rational person would long for the horror and humiliation of Roman crucifixion. Consider that Christ thrice prayed to avoid His impending demise, overwhelmed with sorrow “to the point of death” (v. 38). How did God respond? With a resounding “no” as Jesus was crucified mere hours later-and thankfully so. . .

What would have been our lot-spiritually or eternally-had God granted this request of Christ? What would have been the fate of billions of lost souls in need of a sacrificial Savior had God said “yes” to the impassioned request of His Son? I shudder to think!

Christ chose to trust in the good purpose of His Father (v. 39b), ultimately opening the way to eternal life for all who would come to Him by faith (John 3:16). Submitting to the “no” of God achieved something of incalculable worth and wonder far greater than the pain of the moment. Thus said, perhaps we can come to trust in the plan of our heavenly Father, allowing Him to write the story of our lives as He sees fit. Only God knows what He can accomplish in and through those who trust Him so! Remember. . .

“God is just as good to us in His denials as He is in His approvals.” The denials of God are immeasurable mercies. If God answered all our prayers with a positive response, how miserable we would be. Thank heaven that heaven says no! Negations, restrictions, refusals, denials and rejections are all divine mercies. May we be as thankful when God says no as when He says yes.

Thank you for taking the time to read this publication. Feel free to check us out online at [www.NewLifeBarre.org](http://www.NewLifeBarre.org) or visit us in person each Sunday at 10:30am (COVID-19 protocols are presented on the aforementioned website). We hope to see you soon!

#### Pastor James Foley

*New Life Assembly of God  
South Barre*

### Transfiguration Sunday

*“This is My Son, The Beloved: Listen to Him!”*

*Our services can be found on our website at [www.barrechurch.com](http://www.barrechurch.com) and Facebook page.*

#### Scripture Reading: Mark 9 verses 2-9

I. Introduction:

The voice of a loved one is something incredibly special. Those of you who have grandchildren know the feeling when they pay a visit, running towards the front door and you hear their precious voices. Those of us who still have a parent or parents or adults who took care of us, know how special it is to still hear their voices. I am still so grateful to hear my 90-year-old mother’s voice when I call her in South Africa every week. There are many other voices in our lives that are special as well. Sometimes they sound happy, and other times not so, but these are

the voices of the ones we connect with and look forward to hearing. In fact, we are surrounded by many different voices, some of them giving us information on different aspects of our lives, sharing something special or concerning with us, the community, the church, society and so forth. The messages we receive from all these different voices, have an influence on our daily lives, the decisions we must make and actions we must take. Those are the earthly voices we listen to. . . This morning our passage speaks to us about the heavenly voice from God, addressing the disciples, who were with Jesus on the mountain, “This is My Son, the Beloved: Listen to Him!”

#### II. The Transfiguration of Jesus

In our passage we encounter this powerful Transfiguration experience of Jesus on the mountain. Unbeknownst to Peter, John and James, the walk up that mountain would lead them to the true identity of Jesus, the man they came to know as their friend and confidant. They thought they were alone with Jesus up there, but then suddenly there was a cloud, and Jesus’ whole physical being was transformed. Everything was shining; they were afraid, and then suddenly they were joined by Moses and Elijah, who were in conversation with Jesus about His departure, says Luke in his version of the Transfiguration.

What led to this powerful experience of Jesus on the mountain, are the passages in Chapter 8, where Jesus asked the disciples whom the people say He was, to which they responded, that He was John the Baptist, Elijah, and one of the prophets. Their own view about Him was expressed by Peter, that He was the Christ, the Messiah. This conversation was followed by Jesus’ prediction of his death, how He will be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the teachers of the law. He then told them that anyone who wishes to follow him, must carry their own cross, and if anyone were ashamed of Him the Son of Man would be ashamed of them when He comes in the glory of God. This happened right before they walked up that mountain.

We read that Peter wanted to erect a tent for the three of them, Jesus, Moses, and Elijah, but instead of having his request, met, the disciples heard the voice of God from a cloud! “This is my Son, Whom I love. Listen to Him!” the voice of God exclaimed! What you just saw, Peter, is My Son, being revealed into His full glory! The message of God would transform the temporary idea of a tent into a declaration of Jesus as a transcendent Son of God, who could not be kept in a tent on the mountain. It also confirmed Peter’s earlier acknowledgement that Jesus was the Christ. If anyone would have any doubt about who He was, this awesome experience, which you have just witnessed, should be a message to you, my disciples, about who I am.

The significance of the appearance of Moses and Elijah is the fact that they were representatives of the Law and Prophecy, the cornerstones of Old Israel, says J.R. Porter in his book, “The Illustrated

Guide to the Bible”. Both had their own Mountain experiences in the OT. The Transfiguration scene develops as a new “Sinai” with Jesus as the Central figure, and with a visible and audible manifestation of God to humanity, says William Lane, in his commentary, “The Gospel of Mark”. Jesus transcended the Old Testament figures of Moses and Elijah. They came to usher in Jesus as the Christ, the Unique Son of God, with the voice of God placing the divine seal on that experience!

The other time we see God in the Gospels appear in such an incredibly powerful way and with such brilliance, is at Jesus’ baptism by John the Baptist. We see Jesus rise up from the water, and from the heavens came the Spirit of God upon Him, in the form of a dove, and a voice from heaven, saying very similar words, “You are My Son, whom I love; with You I am well pleased.”

#### III. Listen to Him, says God!

Whatever happens next, remember that He comes from Me, with a purpose; listen to Him, says God. He is the final Bearer of the word of God, says Lane.

The words of Christ are spelled out for us all over in the Gospels. Here are some of them: You are the Light of the World!

Forgive and you will be forgiven.

Whoever receives you, receives not you, but Me, whoever receives Me, receives not me, but the One who sent me.

If you follow me, you carry a cross.

Jesus’ words were instructive, followed by actions of love and compassion! Because of His selfless love and compassion for those on the margins, He was despised by the leaders of the time. The disciples, however, must listen and do as the Gospel teaches them, and not be afraid to follow Him. They must carry their cross.

#### IV. Conclusion

We are entering the time of Lent. This Transfiguration event precedes the period of Lent where Jesus would prepare Himself for what would happen next, the crucifixion. It is about the display of the forces of life and the forces of darkness. The disciples must be aware of that, but not be afraid. They must carry their cross and bear witness to His life and words.

This message is a reminder to us that we too are bearers of the Word of Christ. We are followers of Christ, and while we are hearing and responding to the many voices, we hear every day in our lives, voices that are good, and sometimes not so good, this voice from God is the most important and consistent for us as Christians, as the church of today. Listen to My Son! Listen to Him, God says! May this period of Lent quiet our hearts as we think about our Lord and Savior, Who came with a purpose, who died and rose again, who brings us life through the Spirit of Life, and may we, during this time we are living through, hear the voice of Christ as a calming, comforting voice, that wants to guide us, be with us, and love us. Amen

#### Pastor Margaret Keyser

*Barre Congregational Church*

# Obituaries

### Robert Simpson Hahn, 104

OAKHAM – Robert Simpson Hahn, 104, passed away at his home in Oakham on Jan 5, 2021. Robert was born on Nov 1, 1916 in New York City, the son of Clarence W. and Edith S. Hahn. He spent most of his childhood in Flushing and Pomona, New York.

He entered an engineering program in 1936 at the University of Cincinnati earning his Doctorate in mechanical engineering in 1944. In the early 40s Dr. Hahn took a position with Heald Machine in Northboro where he invented and developed Control Force Grinding. Subsequently he was inducted into many prestigious, global engineering organizations including: CIRP, Paris France and the National Academy of Engineering, Washington DC. He held many patents and is the author of “Handbook of Modern Grinding Technology.”

In the mid-80s, he launched Hahn Engineering in Northboro. In 2000, Dr. Hahn moved his research operation to WPI’s research laboratories where he also became an adjunct professor advising graduate students.

Dr Hahn married Helen Shead

and they had three children: Barbara, Robert and David. After his first wife died, he married Kathleen Dillon in 1978 and they settled in Oakham, where they enjoyed many outdoor activities including canoeing, hiking, skiing and snowshoeing. Robert has most always had at least one horse in his paddock and in later years started adopting rescue horses. He was well known in the Oakham area and became Oakham’s oldest citizen in 2017 when he was presented with the Boston Post Cane.

He is survived by many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, his horse, Storm Warning and many, many friends.

A graveside service was held in Worcester County Memorial Park in Paxton. Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home, 96 South Barre Road, Barre. For an online tribute please visit: [Pillsburyfuneralhome.com](http://Pillsburyfuneralhome.com).

#### DEATH NOTICE

**Hahn, Robert Simpson**  
*Died Jan. 5, 2021*

## Tri-Parish Community Church news

NEW BRAINTREE — On Sunday, Feb. 21, the Tri-Parish Community Church welcomes back the Rev. Kathleen Fitzgibbons to give the morning message. She will be assisted by Deacon Marguerite Crevier at 10 a.m. in the New Braintree Congregational Church. The service is open to everyone – all are welcome.

Social distancing and masks required. If anyone requires pastoral help during the week, they may contact a Deacon: Ginny Rich at 978-355-4485, Marguerite Crevier at 413-477-6942 or Marjie Wissiup at 508-410-7424.

## Congregational church to hold drive-thru dinner

BARRE — The Barre Congregational Church, 30 Park St., will host a drive-thru chicken parmigina dinner on Saturday, Feb. 27 with pickup time from 5-6 p.m. The meal also includes antipasto salad and dessert. Adults are \$12 and children under 12 are \$5. For reservations, people may call Lisa Holloway at 978-355-0140.

## UMassFive donates hundreds of winter coats and clothes

HADLEY – UMassFive College Federal Credit Union announces their members, staff and community partners donated hundreds of winter coats and clothing to Amherst Survival Center. Donations were gathered through a collection drive held at UMassFive’s Hadley and Northampton branches throughout the month of December.

“This is a drive that we hold annually, and we weren’t sure what to expect in terms of donations during the pandemic,” said Cait Murray, Community Outreach Manager at UMassFive. “We were pleasantly surprised to receive a record number of donations this year. The generosity of our members, staff, and community partners is truly remarkable.”

Five vehicle loads of donations were dropped off at the Amherst Survival Center,

where they were sorted and distributed to the community. “Unfortunately, the Amherst Survival Center had to temporarily close our community store due to COVID as we focus on our food and nutrition programs, but we have remained committed to distributing core essentials” said Lev Ben-Ezra, Executive Director of the Amherst Survival Center. “We are so grateful to be partnering with several area organizations including Craig’s Doors and Family Outreach of Amherst to make sure every single coat, blanket, and winter accessory we collect makes it someone who needs it. The UMassFive coat drive is an essential part of that.”

If people would like to support the Amherst Survival Center directly, they may visit [amherst-survival.org](http://amherst-survival.org).

### MIAA

continued from page 7

The MIAA Board of Directors voted to approve sport-specific modifications for the Fall II Season. These modifications will continue to be reviewed as they relate to current regulations surrounding COVID-19 and may be modified if necessary. Additional modifications or the decision to participate in MIAA-recognized Fall II sports will be determined by local school districts and/or their local Boards of Health. You may view the Task Force presentation

HERE.

MIAA President Jeffrey Granatino said, “We made adjustments in the fall and had a success first season. We made additional modifications for the winter and our student-athletes have been actively engaged since December. Now we are hopeful that with the guidance from the Governor’s office and of EEA, along with the work of our various committees, that we will be able to have a safe and successful Fall II Season.” You may view all MIAA sport modifications on the MIAA COVID-19 webpage.

The following sports have been approved by the MIAA for the Fall II Season: Cheerleading, Football, Indoor Track, and Unified Basketball. The following sports were approved for the Fall I Season, however, local districts may have decided to move them to the Fall II Season: Cross Country, Dance, Golf, Field Hockey, Soccer, Swim and Dive, and Volleyball.

The timeframe of the MIAA Fall II Season is February 22-April 25, 2021. There will be no MIAA sponsored post-season tournament for the Fall II Season.

all Bay State Games programs is an important goal of our organization,” said Executive Director, Kevin Cummings. “These collaborations with the NEPSAC and MCSAO will help us achieve this goal and highlight the outstanding athletes, coaches, and administrators from both organizations.

Program, High School Ambassador Program, and Sportsmanship Program as well as coaching opportunities for high school coaches is the goal of this partnership. “Ensuring that all high school student-athletes in Massachusetts are aware of and have access to

### BAYSTATE

continued from page 7

and rewarding relationship.” Offering opportunities to compete in Bay State Summer and Winter Games events, Future Leaders Scholarship



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*Barre Gazette*

## OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

*Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.*

## NOTICE

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# Public Safety

## Barre Police Log

<b>Sunday, Feb. 7</b> 12:26 p.m. Officer Wanted West Street – Report Filed	Spoke to Party 9:04 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop West Street – Citation Issued	Refusal 5:59 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Hubbardston Road – Citation Issued 9:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Valley Road – Citation Issued 9:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued
<b>Monday, Feb. 8</b> 9:03 a.m. Motor Vehicle Collision/ Fire Barre Depot Road – Report Filed 9:22 a.m. Follow-up Investigation Worcester Road – Vehicle Towed 2:14 p.m. Officer Wanted West Street – Citation Issued 6:52 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop South Barre Road – Citation Issued	<b>Thursday, Feb. 11</b> 8:51 a.m. Safety Concern Summer Street – Officer Advised 9:49 a.m. Breaking and Entering Past Residential Cut Off Road – Officer Spoke to Party 6:54 p.m. Officer Wanted South Street – Report Filed 7:03 p.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problems South Street – Services Rendered 8:16 p.m. Sick/Unknown Sunrise Avenue – Ambulance Signed Refusal	<b>Sunday, Feb. 14</b> 4:37 a.m. Falls Wheelwright Road – Ambulance Signed Refusal
<b>Tuesday, Feb. 9</b> 2:35 p.m. Unattended Death Sheldon Road – Report Filed 10 p.m. Citizen Assist Worcester Road – Vehicle Removed	<b>Friday, Feb. 12</b> 7:53 a.m. Serve Warrant Clem Court – Removed to Court/Lockup 12:07 p.m. Breathing Difficulty Summer Street – Ambulance Signed	<b>SOUTH BARRE</b> <b>Monday, Feb. 8</b> 12:44 p.m. Traffic Hazard Oakham Road – Information Taken
<b>Wednesday, Feb. 10</b> 11:45 a.m. Suspicious Person/ Vehicle Wauwinet Road – Officer		<b>Tuesday, Feb. 9</b> 9:40 a.m. Motor Vehicle Collision Hit and Run North Brookfield Road – Information Taken

## Hubbardston Police Log

<b>Sunday, Feb. 7</b> 8:04 a.m. Sick/Unknown Hale Road – Referred to Other Agency 1:58 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision/ Fire New Templeton Road – Ambulance Signed Refusal 6:53 p.m. Fire, Appliance Hale Road – Fire Extinguished	<b>Tuesday, Feb. 9</b> 2:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision/ Fire Gardner Road – Report Filed 4:17 p.m. Animal, Emergency Call Old Westminster Road – Animal Returned to Owner 7:24 p.m. Parking Violation Georgie Lane – Vehicle Removed	Make Summons: Matthew T. Beauvais, 28, Hubbardston Snow/Recreational Vehicle – Public Way Violation; Uninsured Motor Vehicle 9:02 a.m. Elevator Rescues Elm Street – No Action Required 9:13 a.m. Fraud/Forgery Highbridge Road – Call Transferred
<b>Monday, Feb. 8</b> 7:33 a.m. Identity Theft Laurel Street – Investigation (On-Going) 9:55 a.m. Property Damage Old Princeton Cutoff Road – Officer Spoke to Party 12:30 p.m. Property Damage Williamsville Road – Report Filed 5:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Gardner Road – Citation Issued 5:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Worcester Road – Citation Issued 6:46 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Worcester Road – Written Warning	<b>Wednesday, Feb. 10</b> 6:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Gardner Road – Citation Issued Summons: Jean Farrell Vidal Da Silva, 34, Gardner Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle 8:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Bemis Road – Citation Issued	<b>Friday, Feb. 12</b> 3:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision/ Fire Healdville Road – Ambulance Signed Refusal
	<b>Thursday, Feb. 11</b> 12:10 a.m. Recreational Vehicle Complaint Main Street – Arrest(s)	<b>Saturday, Feb. 13</b> 10:42 a.m. Structure Fire Brigham Street – Fire Extinguished 3 p.m. Fire, Chimney Bemis Road – Fire Extinguished 11:02 p.m. Structure Fire Abenaki Street – Fire Extinguished

## Oakham Police Log

<b>Sunday, Feb. 7</b> 7:43 a.m. Sick/Unknown Bechan Road – Transported to Hospital 4:43 p.m. Officer Initiated Bechan Road – Building Checked/Secured	<b>Wednesday, Feb. 10</b> 5:57 p.m. Motor Vehicle Disabled Pine Road – Vehicle Removed	52, Oakham Threat to Commit Crime; Assault
<b>Monday, Feb. 8</b> 11:43 a.m. Falls South Road – Transported to Hospital 12:26 p.m. Fraud/Forgery Barre Road – Officer Spoke to Party 1:23 p.m. Fraud/Forgery Parmenter Road – Report Filed	<b>Thursday, Feb. 11</b> 12:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Worcester Road – Citation Issued 11:23 p.m. Sick/Unknown Bechan Road – Transported to Hospital	<b>Saturday, Feb. 13</b> 11:53 a.m. Building/Property Check North Brookfield Road – Area Patrolled Summons: Jared W. Boutin, 41, Oakham Leave Scene of Property Damage 12:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision Hit and Run North Brookfield Road – Citation Issued 12:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision Rutland Road – Vehicle Towed

# Gobi fights for changes to COVID vaccination sign-up system

BOSTON — Senator Anne Gobi (D-Spencer) took a pair of actions recently in reaction to the start of phase two in the state’s COVID-19 vaccination plan, which is set to open up to vaccinate individuals 75+ starting Feb. 1. With the announcement made on Tuesday, Jan. 26 the Commonwealth would be moving into the second phase of the program, many waited eagerly at the online portals set up by the state to take their place in line only to be frustrated by a lack of available appointments and a system, which seemed to put the burden on constituents to stay vigilant as they worked to find appointments from multiple sites.

Hearing concerns from her constituents, Gobi immediately set to circulate a letter amongst her legislative colleagues expressing

issue with the barriers the online system was creating for the older population and those with limited access to technology and imploring the Administration to develop a user friendly 1-800 number and a centralized system under the COVID-19 Task Force to allow Massachusetts residents to access the sign up process in an easier fashion. The letter received bipartisan support from 25 state senators and 61 representatives, each of whom had heard the same difficulties in their own districts.

While the current appointment system has created mass confusion and anxiety as seniors eligible for Phase 2 vaccinations are asked to navigate a complex web of internet links and appointment slots, this new portal would simplify and standardize the process statewide for booking appointments and

allow a phone-based system for seniors, who lack access or familiarity with technology.

Governor Baker spoke Thursday, Jan. 28 on the issues many faced, pledging to set up a call center for COVID-19 vaccination appointments next week, but providing minimal details on the timing or capacity it may have. While Gobi welcomed the implementation of such a system she reiterated it should have been anticipated and put in place from the start. She said she would continue to work on behalf of the Commonwealth’s most vulnerable citizens to ensure they will be able to receive the vaccine in a timely and expedient manner. For more information on the actions taken this week, people may contact Senator Gobi’s office via email at Anne.Gobi@MASenate.gov.

## Rutland Police Log

<b>Sunday, Feb. 7</b> 7:43 a.m. Sick/Unknown Bechan Road – Transported to Hospital 9:55 a.m. Bleeding (Non-Traumatic) Thornapple Circle – Transported to Hospital 11:19 a.m. Falls Autumn Wood Drive – Transported to Hospital 1:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision/ Fire Prospect Street – Report Filed	Violation to Conceal ID 12:32 p.m. Harassing/Annoying Phone Calls Mark Circle – Officer Took Call 3:01 p.m. Fraud/Forgery Valley View Circle – Officer Spoke to Party	5:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Pleasantsdale Road – Citation Issued 5:20 p.m. Larceny/Theft Sassawanna Road – Officer Spoke to Party 11:23 p.m. Sick/Unknown Bechan Road – Transported to Hospital
<b>Monday, Feb. 8</b> 11:43 a.m. Falls South Road – Transported to Hospital 7:02 p.m. Sick/Unknown Kosta Avenue – Officer Spoke to Party	<b>Wednesday, Feb. 10</b> 1:38 a.m. Seizures Birchwood Road – Transported to Hospital 4:10 p.m. Serve Warrant Glenwood Road – Arrest(s) Made Arrest: Joel D. Poulin, 48, Rutland Warrant	<b>Friday, Feb. 12</b> 2:09 a.m. Parking Violation Fernwood Drive – Written Warning 2:11 a.m. Parking Violation Fernwood Drive – Written Warning 7:23 a.m. Prowler/Trespasser Hillside Road – Officer Spoke to Party 11:40 p.m. Fire, Appliance Main Street – Fire Extinguished
<b>Tuesday, Feb. 9</b> 8:48 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Pommogussett Road – Vehicle Towed Summons: Josue I. Perez, 31, Natick Unregistered Motor Vehicle; Uninsured Motor Vehicle; Number Plate	<b>Thursday, Feb. 11</b> 9:05 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Vehicle Towed 1:30 p.m. Sick/Unknown Pommogussett Road – Transported to Hospital 4:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision Hit and Run Crawford Road – Officer Took Call	<b>Saturday, Feb. 13</b> 9:41 a.m. Fraud/Forgery Lewis Street – Information Given 11:25 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Barre Paxton Road – Written Warning

## Hardwick Police Log

During the week of Feb. 1-8, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 49 building/property checks, 20 directed/area patrols, 10 radar assignments, nine traffic controls, seven emergency 911 calls, one scam, one larceny/theft/shopping, one hazardous incident and 11 motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.	6:49 p.m. Phone – 911 Misdialed Petersham Road – Officer Handled 9:53 p.m. Phone – Serve Warrant Lower Road – Arrest(s) Made	Warning 10:21 a.m. Phone – Welfare Check Church Lane – Transported to Hospital 5:03 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Barre Road – Citation Issued
<b>Monday, Feb. 1</b> 1:36 p.m. Phone – Larceny/Theft/Shoplifting Broad Street – Spoken To 4:57 p.m. Phone – Medical Alarm Highland Terrace – Transported to Hospital	<b>Wednesday, Feb. 3</b> 7:20 a.m. Phone – Hazardous Incident Barre Road – Investigated 10:43 a.m. Phone – Scam Barre Road – Spoken To 10:55 a.m. 911 – Suspicious Activity High Street – Spoken To 10:59 a.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Barre Road – Transported to Hospital 3:59 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Upper Church Street – Citation Issued	<b>Friday, Feb. 5</b> 8:29 a.m. 911 – Lockout Main Street – Services Rendered 11:13 a.m. Radio – Medical Emergency Main Street – Call Canceled 3:46 p.m. Initiated – Investigation Hardwick Road – Spoken To 11:16 p.m. Phone – Safety Hazard Church Lane – Taken/Referred to Other Agency
<b>Tuesday, Feb. 2</b> 3:07 a.m. 911 – Utility Issues Lower Road – Services Rendered 11:08 a.m. 911 – Lockout Church Lane – Checked/Secured 4:01 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued	<b>Thursday, Feb. 4</b> 7:38 a.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Barre Road – Vehicle Towed 9:48 a.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Petersham Road – Written	<b>Sunday, Feb. 7</b> 2 a.m. Phone – Medical Emergency Hardwick Road – Transported to Hospital 7:03 a.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Prouty Road – Transported to Hospital 8:40 a.m. 911 – Unattended Death Goddard Road – Investigated

## New Braintree Police Log

During the week of Feb. 1-8, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 17 building/property checks, 26 directed/area patrols, seven radar assignments, one traffic control, three emergency 911 calls, two animals calls, three motor vehicle stops and one motor vehicle accident in the town of New Braintree.	Emergency Barre Road – Services Rendered	Road – Negative Contact
<b>Monday, Feb. 1</b> 6:38 p.m. Phone – Medical	<b>Wednesday, Feb. 3</b> 1:48 p.m. 911 – Motor Vehicle Accident Ware Road – Services Rendered	5:11 p.m. Phone – Complaint Oakham Cut Off Road – No Action Required 10:36 p.m. 911 – Fire, Auto West Road – Extinguished 3:19 a.m. Phone – Medical Emergency Davis Road – Services Rendered 6:04 p.m. 911 – Complaint Webb Road – Checked/Secured
	<b>Thursday, Feb. 4</b> 6:13 a.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Barre Road – Citation Issued 1:28 p.m. Phone – BOLO Gilbertville	

# Public Notices

### Community Outreach Ohana Cannabis LLC

Notice is hereby given that a Community outreach meeting for a proposed Marijuana Establishment is scheduled for **Monday, February 22, 2021 at 6 p.m.** in the Town hall of New Braintree - meeting room - 20 Memorial Drive, New Braintree, MA 01531. If you are not able to attend we will also be hosting the meeting on zoom at the same time if you have any questions. The zoom information will be posted on the town website. The proposed Wholesale Cultivation and Processing only service will not provide retail sales in the community. The facility is anticipated to be located at 225 Hardwick Rd., New Braintree, MA 01531. There will be an opportunity for the public to ask questions.

02/18/2021

### THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

### Project File No. 608851

A Virtual Design Public Hearing will be published on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed bridge replacement project on Creamery Road Over Ware River in Hardwick and New Braintree, MA.

**WHEN:**  
**Thursday, March 4, 2021**  
**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed bridge replacement project. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

**PROPOSAL:** This proposed bridge project consists of a 100’ long single span bridge. The bridge will increase the total curb-to-curb width to 14’ and an architecturally styled concrete bridge railing system will be located along both sides of the bridge with a steel highway guard railing located on both sides of both approaches. The roadway will be raised approximately 2’ to provide for hydraulic clearances which will require approximately

200’ of roadway improvements along both sides of the bridge.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The Towns of Hardwick and New Braintree towns are responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. MassDOT’s policy concerning land acquisitions will be presented in the hearing.

Written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking are to be submitted to Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E., Chief Engineer, MassDOT, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Project Management, File No. 608851. Mailed statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after the hearing is posted to the MassDOT website listed below. Project inquiries may be emailed to [dot.feedback@state.ma.us](mailto:dot.feedback@state.ma.us).

This hearing is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance

free of charge upon request (e.g. interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, live captioning, videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT’s Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), TTD/TTY at (857) 266-0603, fax (857) 368-0602 or by email ([MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us)). Requests should be made as soon as possible prior to the meeting, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the hearing.

This Virtual Design Public Hearing or a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at [www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings](http://www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings).

JONATHAN GULLIVER, HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

PATRICIA A. LEAVENWORTH, P.E., CHIEF ENGINEER

02/18, 02/25/2021

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## NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for the Barre Gazette, please email [edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com).

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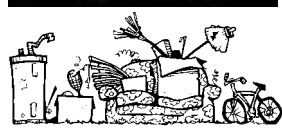
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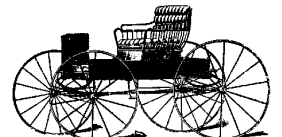
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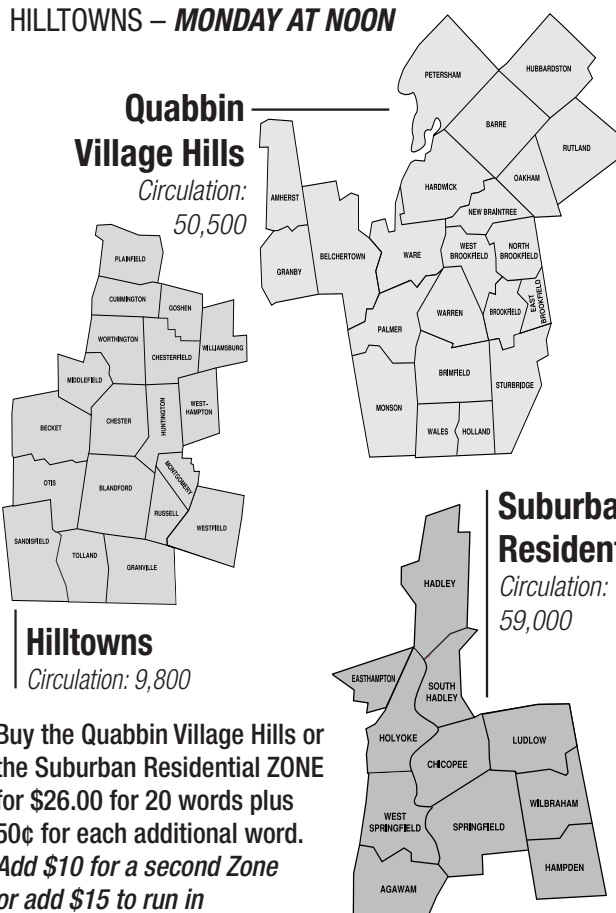
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23	Base Price \$27.00	24	Base Price \$27.50
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33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00
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# Second Chance receives Petsmart Charities grant

EAST BROOKFIELD – Second Chance Animal Services received a \$70,000 grant from PetSmart Charities to help prepare more shelter pets for adoption and ensure they are ready to find loving homes. This grant will assist in providing veterinary care to homeless pets so they can get the “second chance” they deserve.

With three full-service veterinary hospitals and a transport quarantine facility, Second Chance is uniquely qualified to help at-risk homeless pets.

“We are grateful for the continued support of PetSmart Charities in our work to help pets in need,” said Second Chance development director Lindsay

Doray. “So many pets come through our transport program after sitting in overcrowded shelters across the country. Here in Massachusetts, we have many families hoping to find a new family pet. These funds will help us to update vaccinations and provide spay neuter surgeries and veterinary care so each pet can start their new life with their new family.”

“Second Chance Animal Services continues to provide critical care to shelter pets, effectively reducing the homeless pet population and shortening their shelter stay,” said Johnny Jenkins, associate relationship manager at PetSmart Charities. “We are proud to

support this work that will give homeless pets the best chance at finding loving homes.”

Since 1994, through its partnership with nearly 4,000 humane societies, SPCAs and pet rescues across North America, PetSmart Charities has helped more than 9.5 million pets to find loving homes via its in-store adoption program in over 1,650 PetSmart® stores. The leading funder of animal welfare has also donated nearly \$430 million to positively impact communities, to help preserve families, to improve access to veterinary care and to connect people and pets through initiatives like this with Second Chance.

Second Chance helps over 40,000 pets each year through a variety of programs. For more information on Second Chance, people may visit [www.secondchanceanimals.org](http://www.secondchanceanimals.org).

**Turner is a 2-year-old male cat rescued from an overcrowded shelter in Georgia. He suffers from entropion, a genetic abnormality which causes his lower eyelids to curl in so hair is rubbing on the surface of his eyes. After recovery from surgery to relieve him from this uncomfortable condition, he will be available to adoption.**



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